

FAQs on "infusions"

Posted by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission

*Below are frequently asked questions regarding the legality of "infusions" as cited in **Public Act 99-0046** which went into effect on **July 15, 2015**:*

Q: What is an infusion?

A: An infusion is a spirit where ingredients, including, but not limited to, fruits, spices, or nuts, are added to naturally infuse flavor into the spirit.

Q: Can I sell infusions?

A: Yes.

Q: What are the rules and regulations for selling infusions?

A: The infusion may be aged for up to 14 days. After aging, it may be served to customers for up to 21 days. A label is required indicating the production date, the base spirit of the infusion, the date the infusion will finish aging, and the date which the infusion must be destroyed.

Q: How is an infusion different than a mixed drink or pre-mix like a margarita?

A: Infusions are not intended for immediate consumption. Mixed drinks and pre-mixes are intended for immediate consumption.

Q: Do rules differ for pre-mixes like a margarita?

A: Yes. All pre-mix dispensing containers or systems must be drained, contents disposed of, and thoroughly cleaned at least once every week. A record shall be kept on the premises as to the dates the cleaning was done, signed by the person who actually performed the cleaning. ILCC Rule and Regulation 100.160(e).

Q: Is sangria an infusion?

A: No. The base ingredient of sangria is wine not spirits. Therefore, sangria is not an infusion and is regulated according to the pre-mix rules.

Q: Does the Illinois Liquor Control Commission regulate the sales or service of the non-beverage byproducts of an infusion (i.e. fruit saturated with alcoholic liquor).

A: No. The Illinois Liquor Control Commission solely regulates items which "are capable of being consumed as a beverage by a human being." 235 ILCS 5/1-3.05. Infusion byproducts that are sold or served as food items are regulated by local food ordinances and the Illinois Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (420 ILCS 620/).

Q: Can I sell infusions to go?

A: No. Infusions can only be served and consumed on the licensed premises.